

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 May 61	2. LOCATION Sewart AFB, Nashville, Tenn.	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1930 GMT 230030Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	5. SOURCE Military and Civilian
6. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 hr	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1
9. COURSE W-E	10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Triangular shaped, size of dime, silver colored. Moved very slowly. Faded fm sight as night approached.	
		11. COMMENTS This objt was observed with a telescope and definitely identified as a balloon. Navy pilots identified objt as a balloon. This conclusion is substantiated by fact that a balloon was released in area just prior to sighting.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Opie - Hold for specific wind info from ATC/Chesville

Nashville 14, Tennessee

[REDACTED]
June 25, 1961

Maj. William T. Coleman
Public Information Division
Department of the Air Force
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 June 1961, concerning the sighting over Nashville and Memphis of May 27, 1961.

The balloon was sighted over Memphis at 4pm and over Nashville at 6pm also several sightings were made between Memphis and Nashville. According to the Weather Bureau at Berry Field, Nashville, Tennessee, there was no wind above 50,000 feet anywhere in Tennessee with a velocity over 15 knots.

The Nashville Tennessean called the Strategic Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs. (STRAC) officials knew nothing about the balloon which was of enormous size to be seen at the reported altitude. While a local TV station employee positively identified the object as a balloon other persons viewing the object through telescopes positively identified the object as not being a conventional balloon.

Could this device whether balloon or otherwise be powered to have moved this distance in the 2 hour period with only a 5 to 15 knot wind? I would appreciate your comment.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

28 June 1961

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of June 25th.

I shall attempt to be more explicit concerning the sighting you refer to since we apparently disagree as to the conclusion. Your logic is good in reaching the conclusion you broach since it would be illogical to conclude that a balloon moving 15 knots an hour could travel the distance from Memphis to Nashville in two hours. However, the position of balloons at extremely high altitudes are misleading unless exact azimuths and altitudes (above horizon) are known. Additionally, the movements of balloons must be considered from the beginning of the flight profile as the radiosonde is airborne for only about two hours, give or take several minutes. So that you and I fully understand each other and to attempt to rule out one of the evidently erroneous conclusion, I will have to ask that you furnish two separate (time) position reports on the object giving azimuth, altitude and time, each from a known location (longitude and latitude).

There is no organization in the Department of Defense known as the Strategic Air Defense Command. You are probably referring to CINC North American Air Defense Command, located at Colorado Springs, Colorado. STRAC is the abbreviation for Strategic Army Corps and, as far as we can determine, has no connection with launching and recovery of ozoresondes and radiosondes.

From two to twelve balloons of various configurations are launched daily from over 100 locations throughout the United States. The magnitude of even the smaller balloons at extremely high altitudes is such, late in the afternoon, to make the balloon appear larger than it actually is. A radiosonde, considering its configuration, could easily be classed as a unconventional balloon since there are several lines hanging down from it, a unfurled, but closed parachute and an oblong box containing a small radio transmitter. The parachute and radio are suspended by ring-and-sail, consequently rotate as the balloon ascends. Also, the balloon increases in size (due to lessening atmospheric pressure) as it rises. When the balloon reaches maximum altitude it bursts and sends the fragments uniformly in all directions. The extremely low temperatures at the burst point combine with the maximum stretch of the balloon to add to the rather spectacular flight termination. The parachute does not "balloon" until it reaches much lower altitudes (where air becomes dense enough to force the chute to open).

I hope this information is helpful. If you wish, we will pursue this matter further, but to do so we must have the information requested in paragraph two above. Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.
Major, USAF
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [REDACTED]
Nashville 14, Tennessee

CCZCICAG66Z0VMAA16

1961 MAY 23 17 45

TO RJEDSO

DE RJSRDP 1

ZUR

P 281031Z

FM 035TH ADIV STEWART AFB TENN

TO RJWFAL/AIR DEFENCE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO

RJESKB/32ADIV BOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDSO/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER AFATC CINC

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF WASH DC AFCIN

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS (EDG-5-1907) ATTN AFCIN-REFERENCE AFR290-2, UFO.

1. TRIANGULAR
2. SIZE OF DIME HOLD AT ARMS LENGTH.
3. SILVER
4. ONE
5. N/A
6. NONE OBSERVED
7. NONE OBSERVED
8. NONE
9. NONE

May 22: Nashville, Tenn.--A bright triangular object was seen over a wide area from 5:00 p.m. to sunset. Jets from Memphis Naval Air Station were scrambled but could not reach the altitude of the UFO, estimated at 40,000 feet. Possible explanation: "tiny Dick" pyramidal-shaped AF research balloon, but the Strategic Air Command in Colorado Springs, said no aircraft or balloons were known to be in the area. A photograph of the object obtained from the Nashville Tennessean by member Paul Norman is being analyzed by AFACAP.

- D-1 NOTHING DEFINIATE
- 2. OBJECT MOVING FROM WEST TO EAST.
- 3. SAME AS TWC
- 4. MOVING SLOWLY EASTWARD NOT MANEUVERING.
- 5. FADED FROM SIGHT AS NIGHT APPROACHED
- 6. VISIBLE IN THE AREA FOR ONE HOUR.

- C-1 OBSERVATION FROM GROUND AND AIRBORNE T-33
- 2. BINOCULAR AND 3 AND 1/2 INCH REFLECTOR TELESCOPE USED BY PERSONS ON GROUND.
- 3. T-33 AF JET 51-8663, 10,000 FEET 320 DEGREES, 240 KTS LAREDO AFB TEXAS.

D-1 250033Z

- 2. DAYLIGHT TO DUSK.

E. SEWART AFB TENN

- F-1 MR [REDACTED] NASHVILLE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER 20 YEARS ON JOB. MR H. [REDACTED], NASHVILLE TENN NEWSPAPER REPORTER MR [REDACTED] DONALDSON TENN EMPLOYED BY LOCAL TV STATION.
- 2. LT E.L. GIBBS 3641 PTS, LAREDO AFB TEXAS INSTRUCTOR PILOT.
LT W.P. DENN, SEWART AFB TENN WEATHER FORECASTER A3C SEREV
SEWART AFB TENN WEATHER OBSERVER.

- G-1 CLEAR AND 15.
- 2. 10,000 FT 310/35
- 3. 10,000 FT 290/40
- 4. 10,000 FT 250/45

3. NO CEILING

4. 15 MILES

5. N/A

6. N/A

7. N/A

I. TWO NAVY JETS FROM NAVY MEMPHIS OBSERVED OBJECT WHILE FLYING AT 47,000FT THIS WAS APPROXIMATELY 272207Z PILOTS JUDGED OBJECT TO BE A BALLOON.

J. AIR TRAFFIC UNKNOWN. BALLOON RELEASES UNKNOWN.

K. AIR BASE GROUP TRAINING OFFICER BELIEVES OBJECT TO BE A BALLOON

AT 272215Z JACKS CREEK RADIO RELEASED A NOTAM

REPORTING A BALLOON AT HIGH ALTITUDE N.E. OF JACKS CREEK RADIO.

MEMPHIS CENTER TRACKED BY RADAR THE TWO NAVY JETS BUT COULD NOT GET A RADAR FIX ON THE OBJECT. RM ROBERTS USING A 3AND 1/2 INCH REFLECTOR TELESCOPE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE OBJECT AS A BALLOON WITH A BOX UNDERNEATH ATTACHED TO THE BALLOON BY A CABLE, FINALLY

May 27 at Nashville, Tennessee a triangular-shaped UFO, brilliantly lit was chased by jets and photographed by a member of the Nashville Tennessean newspaper staff. The UFO was at an altitude of 60,000 feet and the jets from the Memphis Naval Air Station were scrambled, but could not reach the altitude of the UFO.

PAGE FOUR RJESEBP 1

WHEN THE SUN HAD SET FAR ENOUGH BELOW THE HORIZON TO CAST THE EARTHS SHADOW ON THE OBJECT IT DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW.

L. ONE OF THE PILOTS OF THE NAVY JETS PHOTOGRAPHED THE OBJECT WITH HIS PERSONAL CAMERA.

BT

05/1633Z MAY RJESEBP

JOINT MESSAGEFORM			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED	OFFICIAL FILE COPY 46								
SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER												
16 JUN 61 13 18z			161941T	ST								
ZUR	ROUTINE	TYPE MSG (Check)	ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERRED TO								
INFO		BOOK MULTI SINGLE	AF	BDO 5-1007								
FROM:				CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE								
ATIC WPAFB O				UNCL								
TO:				SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS								
SEWART AF3 TENN RJE\$BP												
UNCLASSIFIED AFCIN-4E <u>6-2205</u>												
839th ADIV/YOUR UNCL MSG BDO 5-1007 DTD 28 MAY 61. REF ITEM L OF SUBJ MSG WHICH STATES THAT ONE OF THE NAVY PILOTS PHOTOGRAPHED THE OBJECT REPORTED. REQUEST AN ATTEMPT BE MADE TO ACQUIRE THE NEGATIVE AND FORWARD IT TO ATIC. THE NEGATIVE WILL BE RETURNED AS SOON AS IT HAS BEEN FULLY EXPLOITED.												
161902T												
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>DATE</td> <td>TIME</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>1402</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MONTH</td> <td>YEAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUN</td> <td>1960</td> </tr> </table>					DATE	TIME	16	1402	MONTH	YEAR	JUN	1960
DATE	TIME											
16	1402											
MONTH	YEAR											
JUN	1960											
CIVILIAN AFCIN-4E <i>Robert J. Friend</i> Major Robert J. Friend		<p>SIGNATURE <i>Philip G. Evans</i> TYPED OR STAMPED NAME AND TITLE</p> <p>PHILIP G. EVANS Colonel, USAF AFCIN-4E</p>										
PHONE	69216	PAGE	1	NO. OF PAGES								
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED												

DD FORM 1 MAY 61 173

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 48, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL RECALIBERED

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

4E

AFCIN-4E/Major Friend/vw/69216

Request for UFO Analysis

16 JUN 1961

Hq USAF
SAFOI-3c (Major Coleman)
Washington 25, D. C.

1. ATIC received a letter from Mr. ██████████ reporting the sighting of a UFO and requesting the analysis of same. A check of our files reveals that the sighting reported by Mr. ██████████ was reported by Sewart AFB, Tennessee, 28 May 1961.

2. Jacks Creek Radio, located about 93 nautical miles southwest of Nashville, reported that a balloon was at high altitude northeast of their location. A local TV station employee watched the object through a telescope and positively identified the object as a balloon with a box underneath attached to a cable. When the sun was far enough below the horizon, the object passed into the earth's shadow; then it could no longer be seen. Two Navy pilots, while flying at 47,000 feet, saw the object and judged it to be a balloon.

3. ATIC has concluded the object was probably the high altitude balloon reported by Jacks Creek Radio. This conclusion is substantiated by the fact that one ground observer (and two Navy pilots) definitely identified it as a balloon.

+ Post 15 July 61
PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

1 Atch
Ltr fm Mr. ██████████, dtd
10 Jun 61, thermo-fax cy.

COORDINATION: AFCIN-4E Robert Friend Major DATE 17 June 61
Major Robert J. Friend

Nashville, 14 Tennessee

[REDACTED]
June 10, 1961

Aerospace Technical Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sir:

On May 27, 1961, there appeared a large triangular-shaped object over Nashville, Tennessee. No one from the Weather Bureau to the Strategic Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs knew nothing about the object. STRAC officials said there was no record of anything-balloon, plane or otherwise over this area at the time.

Some former Air Force men said it looked to them like a large delta-wing. One amateur astronomer viewed the object through a telescope and said it appeared to be shaped like a pyramid and that it dangled a long cable with an instrument package attached.

Jets tried to reach the object they went to 47,000 feet. Pilots said that the object was at 60,000. One military officer said that he is convinced that it was not a balloon. The object was seen by thousands.

Evidently this object did not belong to the U.S. Could it have been a Russian device either a craft or a gas filled container propelled by either propeller or jet? According to the Weather Bureau at Berry Field the wind velocity above 50,000 feet was only 5 to 15 knots. The object was much faster than the wind. A weather balloon release was made at Berry Field only 30 minutes before the object appeared over Nashville. The object was over Memphis, Tennessee at 4pm and Nashville at 6pm.

Will you please give me the explanation? I anxiously await your reply.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

REPLY TO:
ATIN OF: AFCIN-4E/Major Friend/vw/69216

SUBJECT: Request for UFO Analysis

16 JUN 1961

TO: HQ USAF
SAFOI-3c (Major Coleman)
Washington 25, D. C.

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Philip G. Evans
PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

1 Atch
Ltr fm Mr. ██████████, dtd
10 Jun 61, thermo-fax cy.

20 June 1961

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your letter of 16 June addressed to the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center has been referred to this office.

ATIC has investigated the sighting you reported. Sewart AFB reported a similar sighting during the same period.

Jacks Creek Area Radio, located 98 nautical miles southwest of Nashville, reported that a balloon was at high altitude northeast of their location. A local TV station employee watched the object through a telescope and positively identified the object as a balloon with a box underneath attached to a cable. When the sun was far enough below the horizon, the object passed into the earth's shadow; then it could no longer be seen. Two Navy pilots, while flying at 47,000 feet, saw the object and judged it to be a balloon.

ATIC conclusion is that the object you saw was probably the high altitude balloon reported by Jack Creek Area Radio (FAA).

This time of the year balloon lifted radiosondes appear extremely bright, often giving the appearance of being made of metal. The angle of reflected sunlight accounts for the various shapes reported. The balloons reach altitudes of 90,000 feet, sometimes higher.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN
Major, USAF
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Nashville 14, Tennessee